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BOOK REVIEW

ATLAS OF THE COMMONER SKIN DISEASES. Second Edition. By Henry C. G. Semon, M.A., D.M.Oxf., F.R.C.P.Lond., Physician for Diseases of the Skin, Royal Northern Hospital and Hampstead General Hospital. Photography under the direction of Arnold Moritz, M.B.Camb. Bristol: John Wright and Sons. 1940. Pp. 272. 42s.

EVEN a brief perusal of this valuable atlas impels one to say that it will be found invaluable by every practitioner. The magnificent series of colour photographs portrays a life-like reproduction of a comprehensive selection of the more common skin diseases. The set of colour plates which maintain admirable colour values have been enriched by some valuable additions in this second edition and now total 120.

A most useful section of this volume, which places it in the category of something more than an atlas, is the brief clinical description of the more salient features of the various lesions portrayed. Differential diagnosis and the outlines of treatment also receive due attention in their turn.

Among the various groups of skin lesions those of Dermatitis Medicamentosa and Occupational Dermatitis are dealt with very fully by numerous well chosen and excellently depicted examples. The section of plates exhibiting Dermatitis Artefacta, in particular, will be of great help to students and practitioners alike.

Syphilitic conditions are well represented but would be more complete with an illustration of syphilitic alopecia.

On account of the very high standard it is a difficult matter to select any of the various colour plates for special praise, but outstanding examples both of selection and of reproduction are those illustrating syphilitic condylomata, sarcomatosis, chronic superficial glossitis and exfoliative dermatitis.

This volume, which is without peer among atlases of dermatology, should be at hand in every venereal diseases clinic as well as on the desk of all general practitioners.

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